

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1-15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) An electrical device for controlling a generator in an electrical system of a motor vehicle, comprising:

a controller configured to control a voltage of the generator by outputting a control signal to the generator in response to changes in the generator voltage, wherein the controller provides a first area of operation based on the value of the generator voltage, in which a voltage control is performed to regulate the generator voltage, to the exclusion of performing a torque control to regulate a braking torque exerted by the generator, and at least one second area of operation based on the value of the generator voltage, in which the torque control is performed, to the exclusion of performing the voltage control, the controller transitioning from the first area to the at least one second area when the generator voltage goes beyond one of a first upper threshold value and a first lower threshold value, the first upper threshold value and the first lower threshold value being defined by a boundary of the first area;

wherein the generator is coupled to an engine to generate electrical power.

17. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 16, wherein at least one of: a) a transition between the first area and the at least one second area, and b) a width of the first area and the at least one second area, is defined according to the value of at least one operating parameter of the electrical device that influences one of the torque and the generator voltage.

18. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first upper threshold value and the first lower threshold value extend from a setpoint voltage lying between the first upper threshold value and the first lower threshold value.

19. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the first area is defined as a function of a maximum allowable change in torque.

20. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein two second areas are provided for the torque control, and wherein the two second areas extend on both sides of the first area for the voltage control.

21. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein the at least one second area for the torque control lies within a voltage range defined by two voltage boundary values.

22. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque variable is controlled to vary linearly.

23. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque-influencing variable is controlled as a function of time and the at least one operating parameter of the electrical device.

24. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 17, wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque-influencing variable is controlled according to a functional relationship defined in a characteristics map.

25. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling an operation of a generator in connection with a vehicle electrical system of a motor vehicle, comprising:

recording a voltage of the generator, which is coupled to an engine to generate electrical power;

determining whether the recorded voltage lies in a specified range from a setpoint voltage;

performing a voltage control in which the generator voltage is regulated with reference to the setpoint voltage, to the exclusion of performing a torque control in which a braking torque exerted by the generator is regulated, if the recorded voltage lies in the specified range from the setpoint voltage, the specified range from the setpoint voltage defining a first area of operation;

performing the torque control, to the exclusion of performing the voltage control, if the recorded voltage: a) lies outside the specified range from the setpoint voltage; and b) lies

within a predetermined range defined by voltage boundary values, the area specified by a) and b) defining at least one second area of operation; and

specifying a highest priority for the voltage control, if the recorded voltage lies outside the predetermined range defined by the voltage boundary values.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is controlled to vary linearly.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is changed as a function of time and a specified operating parameter of an electrical device that includes the generator and a controller, wherein a value the specified operating parameter influences the torque.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein, in performing the torque control, the torque is changed according to a functional relationship defined in a characteristics map.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of: a) a width of the first area and a width of the at least one second area, and b) a width of a transition area between the first area and the at least one second area, is predetermined.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of: a) a width of the first area and a width of the at least one second area, and b) a width of a transition area between the first area and the at least one second area, is adjusted according to operating parameters of an electrical device that includes the generator and a controller, during a driving operation of the motor vehicle equipped with the electrical device, wherein the operating parameters influence one of the generator voltage and the torque.

31. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 16, wherein at least one of: a) a transition between the first area and the at least one second area, and b) a width of the first area and the at least one second area, is defined according to the value of at least one operating parameter of the electrical device that influences one of the torque and the generator voltage, wherein the first upper threshold value and the first lower threshold value

extend from a setpoint voltage lying between the first upper threshold value and the first lower threshold value, and wherein the first area is defined as a function of a maximum allowable change in torque.

32. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 31, wherein two second areas are provided for the torque control, wherein the two second areas extend on both sides of the first area for the voltage control, wherein the at least one second area for the torque control lies within a voltage range defined by two voltage boundary values, and wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque variable is controlled to vary linearly.

33. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 31, wherein two second areas are provided for the torque control, wherein the two second areas extend on both sides of the first area for the voltage control, wherein the at least one second area for the torque control lies within a voltage range defined by two voltage boundary values, and wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque-influencing variable is controlled as a function of time and the at least one operating parameter of the electrical device.

34. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 31, wherein two second areas are provided for the torque control, wherein the two second areas extend on both sides of the first area for the voltage control, wherein the at least one second area for the torque control lies within a voltage range defined by two voltage boundary values, and wherein, in the at least one second area for the torque control, a torque-influencing variable is controlled according to a functional relationship defined in a characteristics map.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein a width of the first area and a width of the at least one second area is predetermined.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein a width of a transition area between the first area and the at least one second area is predetermined.

37. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 16, wherein a transition between the first area and the at least one second area is defined according to the value of at least one operating parameter of the electrical device that influences one of the torque and the generator voltage.

38. (Previously Presented) The electrical device as recited in Claim 16, wherein a width of the first area and the at least one second area is defined according to the value of at least one operating parameter of the electrical device that influences one of the torque and the generator voltage.